

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 85

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Sherry Hoppe, President of Austin Peay State University.

WHEREAS, it is proper that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to recognize those talented and determined individuals who have dedicated their lives to the pursuit of excellence in all their endeavors and, in doing so, have served as an inspiration to those around them; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sherry Hoppe is one such individual, having served as President of Austin Peay State University (APSU) since January 30, 2001, when the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) appointed her by unanimous vote; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hoppe made history as APSU's first woman president; she is also one of the first two women to head a four-year university in the TBR system and the first person in Tennessee to move directly from the presidency of a community college to the presidency of a four-year university; and

WHEREAS, under her instrumental guardianship, this great University has witnessed advancements of monumental proportions, increasing enrollment almost 30 percent and becoming the state's fastest-growing University; and

WHEREAS, ever mindful of the cruciality of the University's academic mission, Dr. Hoppe has helped Austin Peay achieve reaffirmation of its accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; under her oversight, the University has also developed and implemented several academic success programs, three new bachelor degree programs, four new graduate degrees, fifteen new concentrations, and eleven new minors; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Hoppe's presidency, Austin Peay has implemented progressive technology for the betterment of its students and faculty; the University now leads the State in

online enrollments, has made all academic buildings and several administrative buildings wireless, and houses numerous smart classrooms and more than 120 electronic databases; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hoppe has overseen the expansion of Austin Peay's physical campus, with numerous facilities being constructed or renovated; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hoppe has also demonstrated her commitment to the University's many diverse and worthy programs and facilities that have been established during her tenure, such as the Institute on Global Security Studies, the Hispanic Cultural Center; and the return of Ohio Valley Conference scholarship football; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hoppe launched APSU's first-ever capital campaign that has exceeded its \$30 million goal one and one-half years before the campaign is scheduled to end and has increased grant funds by 80 percent; and

WHEREAS, beyond these and innumerable other meritorious accomplishments at APSU, Dr. Hoppe devotes her time to serving on the boards of directors of many community associations, including the Clarksville/Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, the Clarksville Downtown District Partnership, the Rotary Club, the Bank of America, and the Clarksville-Montgomery County Industrial Development Commission; and

WHEREAS, a 39-year veteran of Tennessee higher education, Dr. Hoppe has served in leadership posts at Roane State Community College, Nashville State Tech Community College, Chattanooga State Tech Community College, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Sherry Hoppe demonstrated her personal commitment to her own education by attaining Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and her Doctorate from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, all while working a full-time job; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to grasp this opportunity to extend its gratitude and recognition to Dr. Sherry Hoppe for her distinguished service to Austin Peay and the students under her charge; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Dr. Sherry Hoppe, commend her on her exemplary service as President and as an academic leader of Austin Peay State University, and offer our fondest wishes for her every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.